

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AGR-05 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 /044 W

----- 079490

P R 121753Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7775

INFO ALL EC CAPTIALS 022

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EEC

SUBJECT: WALNUT SAFEGUARD MEASURES

REF: (A) BONN 17365 (NOTAL); B. OYLOE-MONTEL TELECON, NOV 12, 74

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THIS A.M. (NOVEMBER 12) OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THE COMMISSION TO ENACT SAFEGUARD MEASURES FOR WALNUTS. UNDER CAP REGULATIONS THE COMMISSION SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FRENCH REQUEST BY TOMORROW MORNING. HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION MAY ASK THE GOF TO AGREE TO A DELAY IN RESPONDING UNTIL COB TOMORROW DUE TO THE PRESS OF OTHER WORK.

2. COMMISSION STAFF OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY OPPOSE SAFEGUARD MEASURES FOR WALNUTS, AND PRESUMABLY WILL ADVISE THE COMMISSIONERS ACCORDINGLY.

3. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM

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WALNUT PRODUDERS IN SOUTHWEST FRANCE TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION

TO ENACT SAFEGUARD MEASURES. THE FRENCH PRODUCERS ARE CONCERNED
OVER WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE "ABNORMALLY LOW" PRICES FOR IM-
PORTED US WALNUTS IN THE LARGE WEST GERMAN MARKET. IN ANTICI-
PATION OF AN OFFICIAL RUEQUEST, COMMISSION OFFICIALS RECENTLY
MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIAMOND WALNUT GROWERS INC.
(CALIFORNIA) TO DISCUSS US CROP PROSPECTS AND SALES POLICY.
LARGELY AS A RESULT OF THESE MEETINGS AND ALSO OF FORCEFUL
REPRESENTATIONS BY THE GERMAN IMPORT TRADE AGAINST SAFEGUARD
MEASURES (REFTEL, STAFF OFFICIALS IN THE COMMISSION'S AGRICULTURE
DIRECTORATE REPORTEDLY NOTIFIED THE OFFICE OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE
MINISTER THAT SAFEGUARD MEASURES ARE
NOT JUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, A MEMBER OF BONNET'S CABINET REPORTEDLY
REPLIED THAT "FOR POLITICAL REASONS" FRANCE WOULD HAVE TO
REQUEST SUCH MEASURES. MYERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAP, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, PRICES, WALNUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU08803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0005
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741151/aaaabrzk.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BONN 17365 (NOTAL); B. OYLOE-MON, TEL TELECON, NOV 12, 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WALNUT SAFEGUARD MEASURES
TAGS: ETRD, NUTS, US, EEC, DIAMOND WALNUT GROWERS INC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005